

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sensor pod comprising:
a housing;
a temperature sensor;
a humidity sensor;
an airflow sensor;
an external sensor interface;
a processing circuitry located within the housing; the temperature sensor, the humidity sensor, the airflow sensor, and the external sensor interface being responsive to the processing circuitry;
a memory responsive to the processing circuitry and including a static identification number; and
a universal serial bus (USB) interface coupled to the processing circuitry, the USB interface configured to provide access to measured data associated with the temperature sensor, the humidity sensor, the airflow sensor, and the external sensor interface, the measured data associated with the static identification number.
2. The sensor pod of claim 1, further comprising a second temperature sensor located external to the housing, and wherein the temperature sensor and the humidity sensor are located internal to the housing.
3. The sensor pod of claim 1, further comprising an audio sensor.
4. The sensor pod of claim 1, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to determine a dew point.

5. A computer-implemented method of determining airflow, the method comprising:
 - measuring a reference temperature;
 - measuring a heater temperature associated with a heating element;
 - determining a temperature difference between the reference temperature and the heater temperature;
 - heating the heating element until the temperature difference reaches a first specified value; and
 - determining a cooling time period for the temperature difference to reach a second specified value.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
 - establishing a linear relationship between the logarithm of the cooling period and the logarithm of a mass airflow rate.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the heating element is thermally isolated from a temperature sensor configured to measure the reference temperature.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein determining a cooling period includes determining a time difference between when the temperature differences cools and crosses a first threshold and when it reaches the second specified value.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the first threshold has the same value as the first specified value.

10. A sensor device comprising:
processing circuitry;
at least one sensor coupled to the processing circuitry;
a serial data interface coupled to the processing circuitry; and
memory responsive to the processing circuitry, the memory including a static
unique identification number wherein the serial data interface provides
access to retrieve the static unique identification number and sensed data
measured with the at least one sensor from the memory.

11. The sensor device of claim 10, wherein the at least one sensor is selected
from the group consisting of a temperature sensor, a humidity sensor, an airflow sensor,
and an audio sensor.

12. The sensor device of claim 10, wherein the static unique identification
number is used to maintain data integrity in the event of a change in an address associated
with the serial data interface.

13. The sensor device of claim 10, wherein the static unique identification
number is used to maintain data integrity in the event of a change in a host associated
with the serial data interface.

14. The sensor device of claim 10, wherein the static unique identification
number is used to maintain data integrity in the event of cross host exchange of the
sensed data.

15. The sensor device of claim 10, wherein the serial data interface includes a
USB interface.

16. The sensor device of claim 10, wherein the processing circuitry is configured
to measure a dew point.

17. The sensor device of claim 10, further comprising an external sensor interface coupled to the processing circuitry.

18. The sensor device of claim 17, wherein the external sensor interface is coupled to a moisture sensor.

19. The sensor device of claim 10, further comprising an card-edge serial interface.

20. The sensor device of claim 10, further comprising:
an internal humidity sensor responsive to the processing circuitry and internal to a housing;
an internal temperature sensor responsive to the processing circuitry and internal to a housing; and
an external temperature sensor responsive to the processing circuitry and external to a housing.

21. A method of providing data, the method comprising:
receiving a data request from a host device via a serial data interface;
retrieving sensor data associated with at least one sensor;
associating a static unique identification with the retrieved sensor data; and
providing the retrieved sensor data and the static unique identification to the host device via the serial data interface.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the serial data interface includes a universal serial bus (USB) interface.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the serial data interface includes a card-edge serial interface.

24. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
receiving the sensor data at a host device; and
associating the sensor data with other data previously received from at the host device, the sensor data and the other data including the static unique identification.

25. The method of claim 21, further comprising determining an average of sensor measurements associated with the at least one sensor.

26. A method of providing notification of a sensor condition, the method comprising:
requesting sensor data associated with at least one sensor from a peripheral device via a serial data interface;
receiving the sensor data via the serial data interface, the sensor data comprising a static unique identification number to uniquely identify the peripheral device;
interpreting the sensor data associated with the at least one sensor and the static unique identification number to produce a condition result; and
sending a notification in response to the condition result.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising:
sending the data to storage through a network.

28. The method of claim 26, further comprising:
changing an address associated with the serial data interface from a first address to a second address;
accessing the sensor data via the serial data interface using the second address;
and
associating the sensor data with prior sensor data received via the serial data interface using the first address, the associating based on the static unique identification number.

29. The method of claim 26, further comprising transmitting the sensor data to a remote device, the remote device associating the sensor data with previously collected sensor data based on the static unique identification number

30. A sensor device comprising:

a temperature sensor;

a humidity sensor;

an airflow sensor;

processing circuitry responsive to the temperature sensor, the humidity sensor and the airflow sensor; and

a serial data interface coupled to the processing circuitry.

31. The sensor device of claim 30, further comprising a memory including a static identification number, the processing circuitry configured to associate the static identification number with sensor data retrieved from at least one of the temperature sensor, the humidity sensor, and the airflow sensor.

32. The sensor device of claim 30, further comprising a second temperature sensor located external to a sensor device housing, and wherein the temperature sensor and the humidity sensor are located inside the sensor device housing.

33. The sensor device of claim 30, further comprising an audio sensor.

34. The sensor device of claim 30, wherein the serial data interface includes a universal serial bus interface.

35. The sensor device of claim 30, wherein the serial data interface is configured to provide access to data associated with the temperature sensor, the humidity sensor, and the airflow sensor.

36. The sensor device of claim 30, wherein the processing circuitry is configured to determine a dew point.

37. The sensor device of claim 30, wherein the temperature sensor is a digital temperature sensor.

38. The sensor device of claim 30, wherein the temperature sensor is analog and further comprising an analog-to-digital converter.

39. The sensor device of claim 30, further comprising an external sensor interface coupled to the processing circuitry.

40. The sensor device of claim 39, wherein the external sensor interface is coupled to a door sensor.

41. The sensor device of claim 39, wherein the external sensor interface is coupled to a moisture sensor.

42. The sensor device of claim 30, further comprising a display coupled to the processing circuitry.